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VENONA

M 626

Reissue

From: SAN FRANCISCO

To: MOSCOW

No: 45

29 January 1944

Reference no. 124[a].

1. Advise the cover-name for contact.
2. The night fighters "P-78" were fulfilled by contact with the Army [2 groups unrecovered] new medium bombers [1 group unrecovered] "A-28"

[21 groups unrecovered]

task of the "P-78" fighters. The output of the "P-78" planes is continuing in 1944 according to Army and British contracts. The British order for "P-78" in 1943 of 125 planes of which 188 were made was granted an extension.

3. The P-78 fighter has the following armament: 6 fifty calibre machine-guns

[18 groups unrecovered]

58 calibre type "M - [1 group unrecovered]"

[76 groups unrecovered]

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Notes: [a] Not available. However, in the text of this SAN FRANCISCO message para. 1 would appear to be in answer to a MOSCOW request for a repeat of the last phrase of SAN FRANCISCO's msg. no. 32 of 17 January 1944. Paragraphs 2 and 3 would appear to be in response to an affirmative answer from MOSCOW to SAN FRANCISCO's final sentence of their no. 28 of 17 January 1944, i.e. whether or not MOSCOW wanted BELYAEV's information on the P-78 night fighter signalled to them.

11 July 1969

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